

Senate Resolution 420

By: Senators Harp of the 29th and Staton of the 18th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Georgia authors and urging educators to increase school curricula based on
2 Georgia authors; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the American South has been long recognized as one of the world's richest
4 grounds for literary talent, and Georgia has an international reputation for its diverse tradition
5 of profound and influential writers; and

6 WHEREAS, Georgia has been the home to a wealth of acclaimed poets, novelists, and
7 journalists, such as the members of the Georgia Writers Hall of Fame, including Conrad
8 Aiken, Elias Boudinot, Erskine Caldwell, President Jimmy Carter, Pat Conroy, Harry Crews,
9 James Dickey, W.E.B. Du Bois, Henry W. Grady, Joel Chandler Harris, Terry Kay, John O.
10 Killens, Martin Luther King, Jr., Sidney Lanier, Augustus Baldwin Longstreet, Carson
11 McCullers, Ralph McGill, Margaret Mitchell, Flannery O'Connor, Byron Herbert Reece,
12 Jean Toomer, Lillian Smith, Alice Walker, and Frank Yerby; and

13 WHEREAS, Georgia has been graced by a number of great playwrights such as Margaret
14 Edson, Frank Manley, and Alfred Uhry, the author of "Driving Miss Daisy"; and

15 WHEREAS, countless generations of readers throughout the world have applauded the
16 profound artistry of the great works of fiction that have been written in or about Georgia such
17 as Cane by Jean Toomer, The Color Purple by Alice Walker, Deliverance by James Dickey,
18 Gone With the Wind by Margaret Mitchell, The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter by Carson
19 McCullers, Jubilee by Margaret Walker, A Man in Full by Tom Wolfe, Strange Fruit by
20 Lillian Smith, Swamp Water by Vereen Bell, God's Little Acre by Erskine Caldwell, Wise
21 Blood by Flannery O'Connor, The Waiting Time by Eugenia Price, and Run with the
22 Horsemen by Dr. Ferrol Sams, Jr.; and

23 WHEREAS, Georgia has also been the subject of a number of great works of nonfiction such
24 as I Am a Fugitive from a Georgia Chain Gang! by Robert Elliott Burns, Killers of the

1 Dream by Lillian Smith, Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil by John Berendt, Ecology
2 of a Cracker Childhood by Janisse Ray, and Mama Makes Up Her Mind by Bailey White;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, literature is deeply entwined in the roots of Georgia culture, and a familiarity
5 with the writings of Georgia authors is critical to a thorough understanding of Georgia
6 history.

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8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that Georgia authors and the
9 rich literary tradition of Georgia are hereby recognized and that the Board of Regents of the
10 University System of Georgia and the Georgia Department of Education are hereby urged
11 to consider adding curricula on Georgia authors that is grade-level appropriate.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
13 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Board of Regents of the University
14 System of Georgia and the Georgia Department of Education.